

state of utah

File in ACT/037/026



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

DOUGLAS F. DAY 1596 West North Temple/Salt Lake City, Utah 84116/801-533-9333
Director

Reply To SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
455 West Railroad Avenue, Box 840, Price, Utah 84501
(801) 637-3310

January 16, 1979

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

Dear Jack:

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has some concern for uranium activities that occur on wildlands ranked as being crucial-critical or of high-priority to wildlife. It is recognized that uranium is considered a locatable mineral under the 1872 mining law and that for the most part, surface protection is afforded only through the Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975 (Section 40-8, U.C.A. 1953, as ammended). However, protection of the state's wildlife resource may be further enhanced as a result of identification of important wildlife use areas and increased cooperation from many of the mining companies. As you know, your office has been provided with a map overlay-display system for southeastern Utah so that you can be apprised of wildlife use areas for which we have the most concern. It is hoped that this information will be passed on to mineral developers.

From a wildlife position, it would be beneficial to keep surface developments and their associated disturbances confined to the smallest area possible. In addition, roads used for exploration and development of uranium deposits should be kept to as few as practicable and most roads should be closed once the exploration has been completed and/or the ore extracted. Whenever it is reasonable and possible, exploration, development and actual mining should be conducted during seasons or time periods when wildlife would be least disturbed.

Specifically at this point in time, orders to show cause No. ACT 037-043; 037-027; 037-025; and 037-026 all involve crucial-critical and/or high-priority deer winter range. It is hoped that the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining can cooperate at protecting Utah's wildlife resource. Any consideration or suggestions that you may have would be appreciated in view of the increased interest in development of uranium deposits.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Larry J. Wilson, Supervisor
Southeastern Region

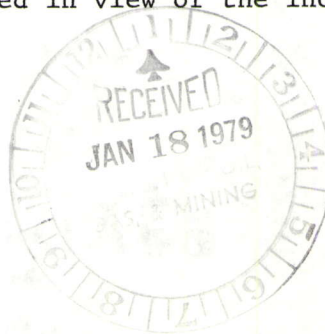
GOVERNOR
Scott M. Matheson

LJW:LBD:trw

cc: Darrell Nish

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037/027 Wilson-Silverbell

T 32S R 26E

15, 21, 22

037/025 Deremo

T 33S R 26E

2, 10, 11, 14, 15

037/043 Hecla

Right on the

T 28S

R 24E

road-adj. to
cave, in gravel pit.

T 29S

R 24E

32, 33, 34, 35, 36
3/4 in c-d-wt
5, 6 no

037/026 La Sal - Snowball

T 28S

R 24E

Three activity
areas-

T 29S

R 24E

2nd. to La Sal

T 29S

R 25E

town.

T 28S

R 25E

3rd. adj. to

Atlas Mine
pros. being operated.

(Mike will take there)

34, 35, 36
3/4 in all in c-d-wt

1, 3, 12 no

6 1/4 in c-d-wt.

31 all

T 28S
R 24E

T 28S
R 25E

c-d-wt

forest
service rd.

Pandora
mine

surface
fractures

T 29S
R 24E

T 29S
R 25E

Ventholes

the surf for
at road off.